

THE GENUS *RHOPALEPHORA* HASSK. (COMMELINACEAE)

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In my monograph of *Aneilema* R. Br. (Faden, 1975) I consider *Rhopalephora* Hassk. a distinct genus. In the past, the species which I include in *Rhopalephora* have usually been placed in *Aneilema* (e.g., Clarke, 1881; Hooker, 1892; Brückner, 1930) or in *Dictyospermum* Wight (e.g., Wight, 1853; Morton, 1966). The purpose of the present paper is to make the new combinations in *Rhopalephora* which will be needed in forthcoming floristic treatments of the Commelinaceae. *Rhopalephora* is distinguishable from *Aneilema*, its closest relative, by the following combination of characters: cincinni elongate and attached to a very short inflorescence axis, filaments fused basally, ovary and capsule densely covered with hook-hairs and smaller, glandular, capitate hairs, and ventral capsule valve deciduous. *Rhopalephora* is separable from *Dictyospermum* by its inflorescence form and its cincinnus bracts persistent; bracteoles perfoliate, persistent; fruiting pedicels longer than the capsules, erect; petals clawed; filaments long, slender, basally fused; ovary and capsule stipitate, puberulous; and capsules bivalved, commonly with unequally developed locules.

Rhopalephora consists of about four ill-defined species separated from one another largely on characters of the mature capsules. The genus occurs in Madagascar (*R. rugosa*) and from India and Sri Lanka to the Fiji Islands. Final taxonomic treatment of the species must await further studies, particularly of living material.

Rhopalephora Hassk., Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 1864: 58. 1864.

Type species: *Rhopalephora micrantha* (Vahl) Faden.

Dictyospermum Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 6: 29. 1853, pro parte.

Piletocarpus Hassk., Flora 49: 212. 1866, in clavi.

The following new combinations are required:

Rhopalephora micrantha (Vahl) Faden, comb. nov.

Commelina micrantha Vahl, Enum. Pl. 2: 178. 1805-06.

Aneilema micranthum (Vahl) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 4: 70. 1843.

Commelina monadelphica Bl., Enum. Pl. Jav. 1: 4. 1827.

Aneilema monadelphum (Bl.) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 4: 70. 1843.

Aneilema scaberrimum (Bl.) Kunth var. *monadelphum* (Bl.) Rolla Rao, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 25: 183. 1964.

Rhopalephora blumei Hassk., Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 1864: 59.

1864. Lectotype: Java, Salak, April, 1784, *Blume* s.n.

(L!) (holotype of *Commelina monadelphica* Bl.).

Rhopalephora scaberrima (Bl.) Faden, comb. nov.

Commelina scaberrima Bl., Enum. Pl. Jav. 1: 4. 1827.

Aneilema scaberrimum (Bl.) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 4: 69. 1843.

Dictyospermum scaberrimum (Bl.) Panigrahi, Phytologia 29: 338. 1975.

Dictyospermum protensum Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 6: 30, Tab. 2071. 1853.

Lamprodithyros protensus (Wight) Hassk., Flora 46: 389. 1863.

Piletocarpus protensus (Wight) Hassk., Commel. Ind., 15. 1870, including vars. α . *latifolius* Hassk., β . *intermedius* Hassk., and γ . *angustifolius* Hassk.

Aneilema protensum (Wight) Wall. ex C. B. Clarke, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 11: 450. 1871.

Rhopalephora vitiensis (Seem.) Faden, comb. nov.

Aneilema vitiense Seem., Fl. Vitiense, 314. 1868.

Piletocarpus ? vitiensis (Seem.) Hassk., Commel. Ind., 18. 1870.

Dictyospermum vitiense (Seem.) J. K. Morton, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 59: 436. 1966.

Aneilema keyense Warb., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 13: 269. 1890 (cf. Lauterbach, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 50: 63. 1913).

Dictyospermum keyense (Warb.) J. K. Morton, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 59: 436. 1966.

Rhopalephora rugosa (Perrier) Faden, comb. nov.

Aneilema rugosum Perrier, Notul. Syst. (Paris) 5: 195. 1936.

The typification and synonymy of *Commelina micrantha* Vahl require some comment. The type is No. 3207 in the Jussieu Herbarium (P-JU). On the label is the phrase, "ex India^A tulit Lahaye -- dedit Thullier 1800." Lahaye, however, did not collect in the Old World (Chaudhri, Vegter & Wal, 1972), and *Rhopalephora* is not known from the New World. If the collector was actually Lahaie, some of whose collections are doubtfully in the Jussieu Herbarium (Chaudhri, Vegter & Wal, loc. cit.), then the specimen could have come from Java, which Lahaie visited and in which this species occurs. In any event, the "India^A" on the label does not appear to be India in the modern sense, in which neither Lahaye nor Lahaie collected, and from which this species is unknown. Until further evidence is obtained, both the origin and collector of this specimen must be considered uncertain.

Also belonging in *Rhopalephora* but requiring further study before their status can be determined are *Aneilema vitiense* Seem. var. *petiolata* C. B. Clarke (in DC., Monogr. Phan. 3: 220. 1881) and the nomen nudum *Commelina trifida* Thunb. (Mus. Nat. Acad. Upsal., Append. XVIII. 1809).

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